Package for farmers of Bundelkhand and Chhattisgarh

1576. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers have submitted their demands to the Prime Minister and he had assured to take action on the demands;

(b) if so, what kind of relief is being envisaged by his Ministry and the kind of package Government is going to give to the farmers of Bundelkhand in UP and Chhattisgarh;

(c) how many farmers will be benefited by this package particularly farmers of the Bundelkhand;

(d) whether his Ministry has taken up the issue of reduction of tax on diesel used by farmers; and

(e) if so, the details of all initiative and visible changes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and some public representatives requested for study of the drought like conditions in the Bundelkhand areas and some tehsils in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh and provision of Central assistance to tackle the situation. An Inter-Ministerial Central Study Team visited the Bundelkhand areas and some tehsils in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh in the 4th week of January, 2008 and the Bundelkhand areas of Madhya Pradesh, to study the drought like situation in these areas with a view to assessing the ground situation and the scale of implementation of various medium-term and long-term drought mitigation programmes/ schemes and to recommend strategy and various measures that are required for agriculture development suitable for the areas to ameliorate the current situation. Further action would be taken after receipt of the Team's report.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Recommendations of Prof. Radhakrishna Committee

1577. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the specific recommendations of Prof. Radhakrishna report on agriculture indebtedness recently received by Government and Government's reaction to each of the recommendations; and

(b) by when these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government had appointed an Expert Group on